

FALL 2007

Volume 2007 • Number 4 • \$5.00

THE KEYNOTER

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL ITEMS CONSERVATORS



Ferrotypes

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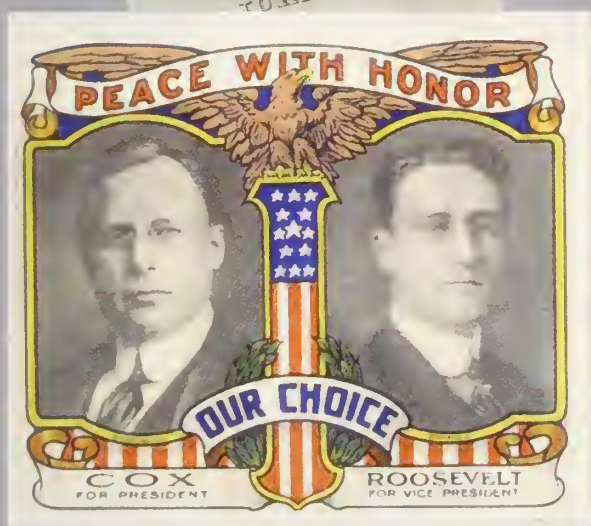
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FROM THE APIC PRESIDENT



FERROTYPE ISSUE

Dear fellow APIC members:

One of the marvelous aspects of our preservation of political memorabilia is that the materials come in all forms. We're not just limited to medals, ribbons or posters. Rather, as conservators, we recognize and value that candidates for public office have emblazoned their images on any types of items available. Whether printed on paper, affixed under celluloid, woven into textiles, or under a porcelain glaze, we consider all materials of political campaigning important. This issue examines the earliest photographic campaign item - the ferrotype. While earlier images exist as cased daguerreotype images, these were not produced for widespread public consumption. When inventors could cheaply produce photographic images, candidates jumped on the new opportunity for self promotion. While fragile, numerous fine examples of ferrotypes have survived and are preserved in many collections, as described in our lead article by Ed Sullivan.

This issue also features flasher buttons. If you think flashers were a product of the 1960s, guess again! They have been utilized in politics and advertising since the early 1900s! I would also like to note the 1860 Wide Awakes banner and article provided by APIC member Mark Gelke and another informative article by Keynoter stalwart Steve Baxley. The *Keynoter* continually solicits material from our members collections, and will publish them, in time, as they fit within the editorial calendar. Please contact our editor if you also have an article or image to share.

Yours in progress,

Brian E. Krapf



1860: Lincoln versus the Field.



Slavery is the issue that shattered the political alignment in the young republic. Both Democrats and Whigs found their parties falling apart on an issue that resisted all attempts at compromise. The Whigs broke into anti-slavery ("Conscience Whigs") and pro-slavery ("Cotton Whigs") factions and disappeared in the South. Democrats likewise split and put two tickets in the contest; Northern Democrats nominated Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois while Southern Democrats nominated Vice President John Breckinridge of Kentucky. Many Northern Whigs were drawn into the new Republican Party supporting Abraham Lincoln but the remnants of the old Whig Party put forward a Constitutional Union ticket headed by Tennessee Senator John Bell. Against three opponents offering varying pro-slavery positions, Lincoln won easily in the Electoral College while Douglas ran second in the popular vote but only managed to carry one state. Breckinridge ran third in the popular vote but carried eleven states while Bell ran fourth in the popular vote and carried three states.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

The celluloid button has always been the central item of collecting political Americana but that noble little advertising specialty did not make its appearance until 1896. Yet the pre-celluloid era of American history encompasses some of the most fundamental and formative years of our republic. A great example is the rare ferrotype for 1884 Greenback Party presidential nominee Benjamin Butler, which I used this issue instead of my own picture (the resemblance is minimal but is probably an improvement). The other items in this column show future President Andrew Johnson and 1868 Democratic nominee Horatio Seymour. I can remember my early days as a collector when a 1928 Al Smith litho seemed almost unreal. Those ferrotypes from the 19th century still leave me with that sense of amazement.



Michael Kelly
Editor



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ILLUSTRATIONS--The editor wishes to thanks the following for providing illustrations for this issue: Al Anderson, Larry Brokofsky, Germaine Broussard, Melyssa Fratkin, Robert Fratkin, Tom French, John Gingerich, Heritage Galleries (HA.com/Americana), Don Rosen, Al Salter, Edmund B. Sullivan, Mark Titelbaum and William R. Wanger.

FRONT COVER--Enlarged pictures of ferrotypes. Upper row: 1860 Republican VP Hannibal Hamlin (Lincoln's running mate), 1864 Lincoln/Johnson jugate, 1860 Constitutional Union presidential nominee John Bell. Lower row: 1860 Democratic VP nominee Herschal Johnson, 1864 McClellan/Pendleton jugate, 1860 Southern Democratic VP nominee Joseph Lane.

SUBMISSIONS--*This is your publication. Please feel free to share your ideas, suggestions, illustrations and stories. The Keynoter is delighted to share pictures of interesting political Americana with its readers. When submitting an illustration, send it as an .eps, .jpg or .pdf file to mkelly@mcc.edu. Illustrations should be in color and submitted in digital format with at least 300 dpi resolution (preferably higher). Files must be created at 100% of actual size or larger (smaller risks losing clarity). Digital electronic images should be saved to a minimum of 300 dpi as TIF, GIF, JPEG or EPS files, preferably in Adobe Photoshop.*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Excellent Summer 2007 edition of The Keynoter. One small point, however, in connection Paul Rozycki's piece ("Minor Party Black Candidates") and what is very nearly an inexhaustible subject.

I regretted the omission of two African-American candidates for President and Vice-President nominated by the People's Party in 1972 and 1976. Julius Hobson was Dr. Benjamin Spock's vice-presidential running mate in 1972, while Margaret Wright headed the ticket in 1976, with Spock running as her VP nominee.

Hobson helped found the District of Columbia Statehood Party. According to an oral history from Chuck Avery, National Secretary of the People's Party in 1972, Spock and Hobson were nominated at a convention held in St. Louis in July 1972. The Spock-Hobson ticket garnered more than 78,759 votes.

Wright had been a community activist from the Los Angeles area, and won 49,013 votes according to the U.S. Election Atlas, although I believe that vote total may be just from California. I know the nominating convention for Wright in 1976 was held at Washington University in St. Louis, because I was there as the only 18-year-old representing New Jersey.

Scott Schnipper (APIC #12346)

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Ferrotypes & Photo Badges

By Dr. Edmund B. Sullivan

From the Lincoln/Douglas/Breckenridge/Bell campaign of 1860 until the arrival of the celluloid button in the McKinley/Bryan campaign of 1896, among the finest political campaigns items were the ferrotypes.

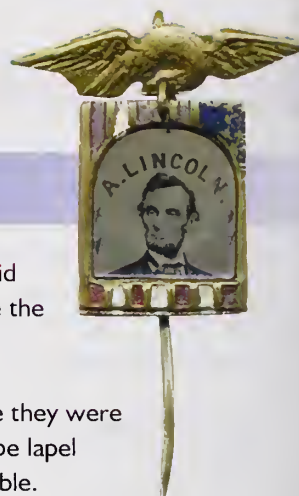
Ferrotypes, also known as tintypes, were small photographs mounted in decorative metal frames, usually made of brass. Starting in 1864, some brass picture pins had paper pictures since they were cheaper than tintypes to produce and in 1896 celluloid buttons pushed out both paper and tintype lapel badges because buttons were cheaper to produce, offered a higher quality image and were durable.

From the viewpoint of political Americana collectors, the near simultaneous developments in camera technology and the popularity of tintypes can only be described as serendipitous. First, by 1860 tintype photography had arrived at the point where multiple and undistorted images were possible. Second, the invention of the circular brass frame that contained candidates' images had been patented by Douglas Maltby of Waterbury, Connecticut in that same year. Both tintype and frame arrived just in time for the presidential campaign – which should make political Americana collectors forever grateful.

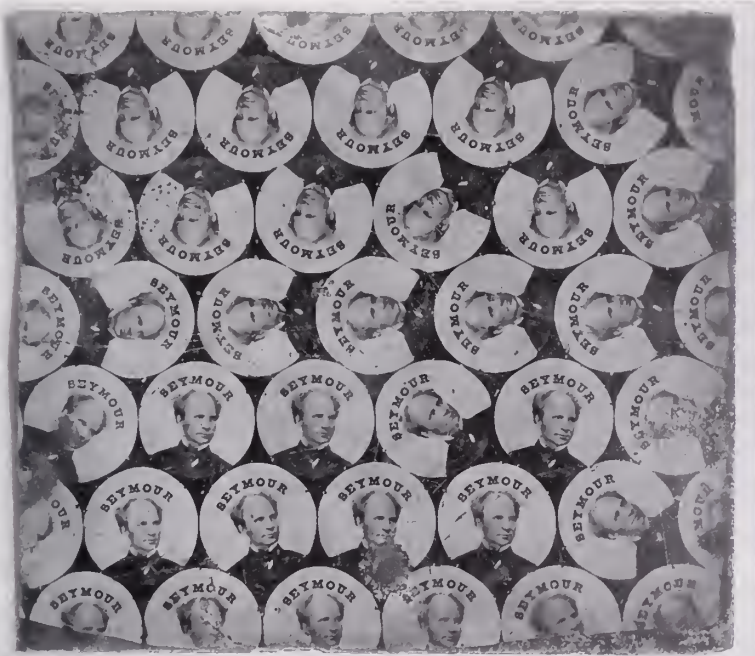
Maltby described his invention as a "photographic medal". "My medal", he wrote in his patent application, "consists of a plate of solid metal constituting a frame or rim of a metallic character surrounding a picture or pictures produced by photography [with] its marginal portion ornamented or inscribed in any desired or appropriate manner and having a center circular cavity for reception of a photographic picture...".

Maltby continued with an explanation of the medal's manufacture, describing the process as an insertion into the frame of a "sheet metal picture which has been suitably prepared and afterward varnished with some desirable varnish." The drawings accompanying his application illustrate a ferrotypes frame with the names of Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin surrounded with flower sprays on opposite sides and the year "1860" (prob. Sullivan AL-1860-101) on one side. Variations in Maltby's design such as brass shell frames and tin frames often in larger diameters with rather elaborate embossing, cloth covered frames and the means for attaching to ribbons and clothing soon followed.

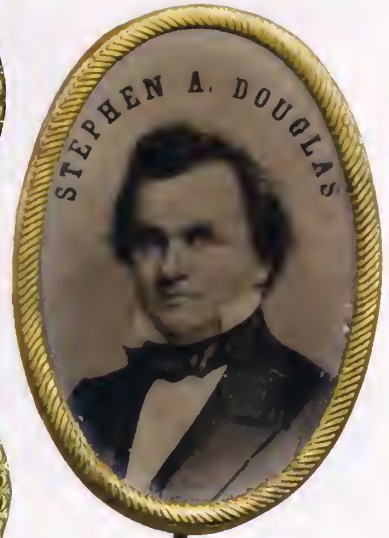
In 1856, a few years before issuing Maltby's patent, the U.S. patent office had issued a patent for photographic pictures on japanned metal, (an enamel painted surface). First called melainotypes, meaning "dark colored", the images appeared on black enameled iron sheets. The enamel was coated with collodion, a highly flammable and colorless solution with an alcohol base. After a timed exposure period the image is immersed again in a number of solutions and then varnished. The result, most commonly called a tintype, had no tin in it.



The election of 1860 saw wide use of the new ferrotypes badge. Shown enlarged above are (left to right) Stephen Douglas, Abraham Lincoln and John Bell.



Even jugates were available on ferrotypes.



Images enlarged.

In quality of image, the tintype was the weakest of all photographs. The white turned out grey and the range of contrast was extremely limited. The image was so highly sensitive to light, indoors and out, that, in worst cases, the metal sheet darkened completely. But tintypes were otherwise virtually indestructible. Although just one image could be shot at a time, tintypes were less complicated to produce than daguerreotypes and ambrotypes, hence could be sold at lower prices and in larger volume. Consequently, tintypes can be considered the first "people's photography".

Tintype photography became even more popular with the invention of a camera and lens so constructed as to allow from six to twenty-eight images (later 36) to be shot with one exposure on a 5"x 7" plate. The inventor was Vermont-born Simon Wing (1826-?),

whose career was a solid mixture of creativity and business acumen. He was a daguerreotypist, camera designer and manufacturer and, just incidentally, the inventor of the mesh framework that permitted successful use of street banners. He seems to have been the first to use street banners as an advertising medium, to publicize his studio in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Wing was also the Socialist Labor Party candidate for President in 1892. His "Multiplying View" camera was patented in 1863 although he had invented an earlier version in 1855. It was likely this earlier camera, with later improvements, made possible the mass production of ferrotypes. Images were produced by copying a master portrait with the camera. What could not be avoided, however, was the distortion of images furthest from the lens's center line.



The Civil War era produced many handsome items: Confederate President Jefferson Davis (left, enlarged), Union general U.S. Grant (right, enlarged) and Abraham Lincoln (center). The top two Lincolns are 1860 and the bottom two 1864.

Note the appearance of a beard which Lincoln grew after the 1860 election.



A variety of ferrotypes and photo badges. Left: 1860 items for Lincoln, Hamlin and Douglas. Center: Lincoln enlarged. Right: 1864 George McClellan badges.

One solution, apparently, was an adaptation to Wing's camera of four "tubes" which, according to Wing, could accept 616 negative images, each a half inch square, to completely cover an 11"x 14" plate. The operator moved the camera, later by mechanical means, in proscribed directions with half-second exposures, thus eliminating distortions. A variation of this improvement allowed a smaller number of circular images on the same size plate (see the illustration sheet of ferrotype photos from 1868 for Horatio Seymour on page 9). Following developing, the plate was hand or machine cut into squares or circles, called "gems" in the trade, and prepared either as cartes de visites or inserted and sealed into brass frames.

By the 1860 presidential campaign, tintype photography had advanced to the point where the ability to produce multiple exposures fairly rapidly and in greater volume was becoming commonplace. Posing for one's picture, more often

for the less expensive *carte de visites*, was immensely popular and photography studios were fast becoming a high growth business, especially in New York and Washington. Marcus Olmsby, Wing's sometime business partner, had, apparently, also invented a multiple exposure camera, but it was not patented until much later, in 1869. Olmsby opened a studio not far from The Cooper Union in New York City, as did August Simmeldinger on Broadway. In Washington, Alexander Gardner's and Mathew Brady's studios enjoyed the patronage of prominent military and political figures (including Abraham Lincoln, whose photographic history has been a long standing subject for scholars), visiting local and foreign celebrities and middle class patrons – all of them happy to see themselves, we can imagine, portrayed in somber shades of black and grey.



A nice selection from 1864. The two ferros at the lower center show McClellan and running mate George Pendleton.



The top two rows are from the 1868 battle between Democrats Horatio Seymour and Francis Blair and Republicans U.S. Grant and Schuyler Colfax (center Seymour/Blair enlarged). The third row shows Lincoln, McClellan, Grant and Horace Greeley.

We collectors prize political ferrotypes for their rather simple beauty, their scarcity and their association with Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant, Stephen Douglas and other White House candidates. The exact number manufactured can never be known, but one authority estimates that somewhat over 100,000 ferrotypes were made for the 1860 campaign alone, a very small number, indeed, from the vantage point of nearly a century-and-a-half later. The more important story of American photographic history in 1860, however, is paper, or albumen, photography. Carte de visites, originally developed in Europe, very quickly became the rage in this country at the same time as tintype photography. Cheap as tintypes were, albumen photographs (so called because of the egg white used to impart a protective glaze to the image) were yet cheaper and in small cards or the larger studio/cabinet cards were immensely popular into the early years of the 20th century.

But political tintypes and photo badges will forever be collectors' prizes and those little ferrotypes a pleasure to own. That is the way it should be.

Author's Note:

Douglas Maltby was an employee of the Scovill Button Company of Waterbury, Connecticut. Scholars and collectors are aware of this company because of their many brass shank shell buttons depicting White House candidates and political slogans produced in the 1820s through the 1850s, and ferrotypes during the 1860s. Shell buttons and ferrotypes are documented in my *American Political Badges and Medalets, 1789 – 1892*. Shell buttons are more fully documented in Alphaeus Albert's *Political Campaign and Commemorative Buttons*, published in 1966. For more information about the early history of American photography, I especially recommend William Welling's *Photography in America: The Formative Years, 1839-1900*, (1978). The major reference for Lincoln photography is Hamilton's and Osterdorf's *Lincoln in Photographs: An Album of Every Known Pose*, (1963, 1985).

U.S. Grant Triumphs in 1868 and 1872

In the tumultuous aftermath of the Civil War, with the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln, the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, and the turmoil of Reconstruction, America turned to the battlefield hero of the recent conflict, General U.S. Grant. The ticket of Grant and Indiana's Schuyler Colfax defeated Democrats Horatio Seymour of New York and Francis Blair of Missouri.

Although widely popular and personally honest, President Grant proved a poor judge of character and found his administration bogged down in scandals. A growing number of the Radical Republicans, such as Charles Sumner and Carl Schurz, formed a new opposition movement dubbed the "Liberal Republicans."

Grant's Presidency split the GOP and in 1872, he faced the Liberal Republican ticket of New York's Horace Greeley and Missouri's Gratz Brown. Despite receiving the Democratic nomination in addition to his own, the eccentric Greeley was no match for the old war horse and President Grant easily won a second term with running mate Henry Wilson of Massachusetts.

Shown enlarged.



Shown enlarged.

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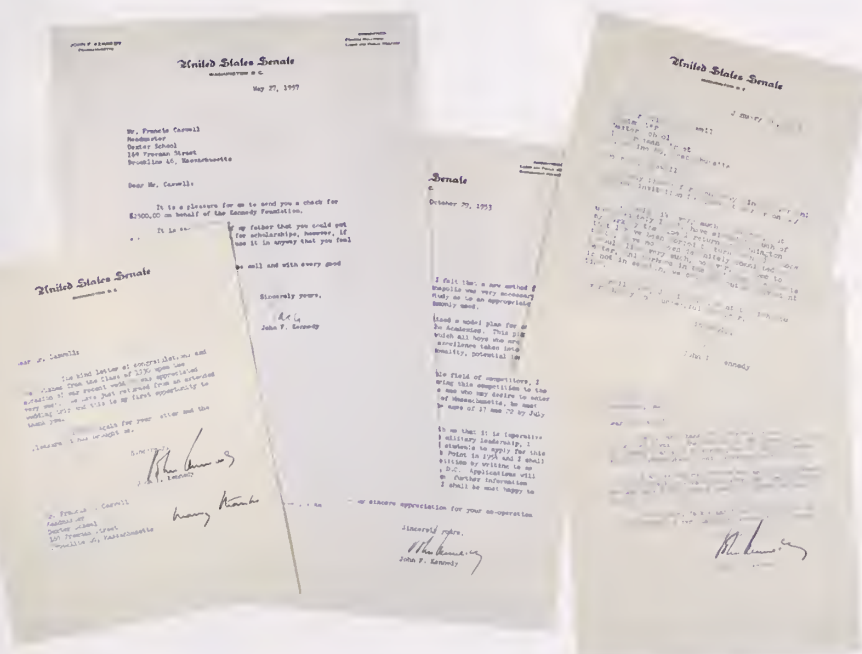
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1876: "Tilden or Blood" but Hayes in the end.

Until the Bush/Gore battle of 2000, the election of 1876 was the most commonly cited example of chicanery in presidential elections. Democrats Samuel J. Tilden of New York and Thomas Hendricks of Indiana carried the popular vote and appeared to be ahead in the Electoral College. But Republican backers of Ohio's Rutherford B. Hayes and New York's William Wheeler disputed preliminary results and wound up with a one-vote victory in the Electoral College. There was no shortage of blame to go around as the Ku Klux Klan kept Republican voters away from the ballot box in the South while Tammany Hall stole votes in the North, but Tilden supporters threatened to reopen the Civil War with threats of "Tilden or Blood." In the end, a deal was cut. The Democrats got a free hand in the South and the GOP kept the White House.



1880: Garfield vs. Hancock

The nomination of James Garfield was a surprise but that of Winfield Hancock was predictable. Garfield emerged out of a convention deadlock as a classic "dark horse" but Hancock, a splendid general for the Union, was an obvious choice for his party. Republican Garfield ran with Chester Alan Arthur of New York while Hancock's running mate was Indiana's William English. Garfield was a scholar/politician and Hancock was a genuine war hero. The result was a narrow victory for the party of Union and Lincoln. Garfield didn't get to enjoy the Presidency much, however. Only a few months after his inauguration, he was killed by a frustrated office-seeker, leaving Vice President Arthur to finish his term.

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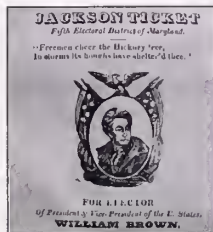
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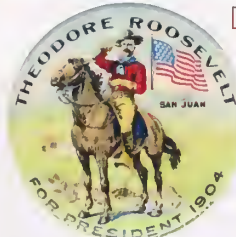
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Grover Cleveland: Two Out of Three Ain't Bad.



The high point of ferrotypes may well have been the three presidential campaigns of Grover Cleveland. A New York Democrat and reformer, Grover Cleveland became the first Democrat to win the White House since the Civil War. After that searing national experience, the nation entrusted the Presidency for 20 years to the Republican Party that had preserved the Union. With Lincoln, Grant, Hayes and Garfield, the Republicans won every presidential election from 1860 through 1880. Sadly, two decades of power left the party in the hands of professional politicians far different from those idealists of the Abolitionist era.

By 1884, the country was seething over the political corruption to be found in both parties. Buffalo's reform Mayor Grover Cleveland was elected Governor of New York and immediately tackled New York City's Democratic political machine despite being himself a Democrat.

Meanwhile, the GOP nominated the tainted James G.

Blaine of Maine, giving the Democrats their best shot at the White House since James Buchanan. Cleveland and running mate Thomas Hendricks of Indiana (who had also been Tilden's running mate in the disputed election of 1876) won a narrow victory over Blaine and John Logan of Illinois.

Cleveland would run for President three times; 1884, 1888 and 1892. Each time he won the popular vote but in 1888 he lost the Electoral College to Benjamin Harrison and had to wait four years before returning to the White House. Because he served as President from 1885 to 1889, then again from 1893 to 1897, Cleveland is considered both the 22nd and 24th President.

Cleveland's running mate in 1888 was Allen G. Thurman of Ohio, while Harrison was joined by Levi P. Morton of New York. During their 1892 rematch, Cleveland ran with Adlai E. Stevenson of Illinois and Harrison picked Whitelaw Reid of New York.



McKinley and the End of the Road for Ferrotypes.

While the campaign of 1892 produced a rich selection of ferrotypes, the election of 1896 produced far fewer. Why the difference? It was the arrival of the now-beloved celluloid button that rapidly replaced the ferrotypes on the lapels of American voters.

The campaign between William McKinley and William Jennings Bryan produced several ferrotypes but the new-fashioned buttons were cheaper and more colorful. Even the most casual collector quickly discovers that the McKinley campaigns created one of the richest veins of campaign material, highlighted by the celluloid button.

One ferrotypes-like item from 1904 showed Theodore Roosevelt and running mate Charles Fairbanks pictured in TR's famous "pince-nez" glasses but it was one of the last of a dying breed first seen in the Lincoln campaign of 1860.





Examples of Cleveland-era ferrotypes and photo badges.

Collecting Flashers

By Melyssa Fratkin, Don Rosen, Mark Titelbaum & William R. Wanger

Is it a "flasher," a "flicker," or a "lenticular"? Whatever you call them, these items produce the same double-image (or even triple-image) effect. Whether the flasher item is a button, picture, postcard or toy, the image seen from one angle shifts, flips, zooms or otherwise changes when the item is moved, so that a different image appears from another angle. The technology used in making flasher buttons was developed in the 1930s and perfected in the 1940s -- possibly as part of the World War II effort to improve bomb-sights. It employs what is commonly referred to as "lenticular" technology: the laminating of a plastic "lenticular" ribbed lens onto an image that has been "encrypted" with the use of a special camera.

Before the introduction of "flashers", a few mechanical and other paper variations of plastic lenticular items were produced. In most cases, these early items were produced as novelty items, such as Coney Island boardwalk souvenirs, and as political campaign items, and were typically in the form of postcards, rather than buttons. Examples of these items are a postcard of President Ulysses Grant and his tomb, as well as postcards for Woodrow Wilson and Teddy Roosevelt. Another early variant on the flasher idea, sliding cards, were in vogue from World War I and became common in the 1948 Truman-Dewey, 1956 Eisenhower-Stevenson and 1960 Kennedy-Nixon campaigns, and are still used today. Examples of these items are an anti-German postcard, captioned "Kaiser Wilhelm Gets His," where Uncle Sam can be seen beating up the German leader, and a Bush v. Gore sliding card, asking "Who Will Be Our Next President?", and urging voters to "Vote For Your Candidate, November 7, 2000."

The "father" of the flasher button is Victor Anderson, whose Mt. Vernon, NY-based company, Pictorial Productions, Inc. (known as "Vari-Vue") is generally credited with having produced the first flasher-type political campaign button: the 1952 "I Like Ike" flashers. By the mid-1960s, Vari-Vue had licensed its technology to companies in South America, Europe, Asia and elsewhere, and political and non-political flasher production expanded. Flashers were produced in support of everything from political candidates and social causes to consumer products, even Queen Elizabeth's coronation and birthday celebrations.



Two versions.



In the 1950s and 1960s, other companies produced flashers as well, including Cine-Vue (of Yonkers, NY) and Dimensional Research (of Burlingame, CA). Another New York company, Visual Panographics, Inc., working with Eastman Kodak, produced a different type of image than the one associated with Vari-Vue, using the Xograph® printing process. The Xograph® process, which produced a three dimensional layered photographic image, was introduced in early 1964, in issues of *Look Magazine*, and was later employed, in advertising, postcards, etc., in the same manner as Vari-Vue's images.

In 1969, several sizes of Xograph® photographed portraits of President Nixon were published, including a postcard, an 8" x 10" portrait and a 5" square photo, on the cover of the March 18, 1969, *Illustrated London News*. These 8" x 10" and larger lenticular and other flasher-type pieces are increasingly scarce. The anti-Dukakis sign that "flashed" during the Republican National Convention in 1988 has become quite a hard-to-find item. The rarity of these items may be due, at least in part, to the fact that larger items are harder to store, and therefore more susceptible to damage and adverse temperature and moisture conditions.

Because the political items produced in the 1960s were supported by the candidates and produced with the use of campaign funds, the candidates' campaigns advertised their flasher items. By the end of the 1960s, Vari-Vue and Xograph® images were a world-wide craze for all types of items and purposes.



In addition to using flashers on campaign buttons and other political items, lenticular and Xograph® images were used in advertising materials and other business items; on baseball cards; on record album covers (including the Rolling Stones' *Their Satanic Majesties Request*); on postcards; on tie-bars, watch fobs and other types of jewelry; on plastic ring toys and other premiums; and for various other uses.

With the Vari-Vue company at its height in the 1960's, there are many more variations of Kennedy, Nixon, Johnson and Goldwater items than from other campaigns. What flasher collectors describe as the "holy grail" of flashers (of which there are less than a half-dozen or so known to exist), the "JFK and LBJ, Our Leaders All the Way" jugate flasher pictured in this article is one of the best Kennedy items and so far the most expensive of all flashers.

The "LBJ for the USA" Vari-Vue series of state and organization plastic "ribbon" buttons (produced by Cine-Vue), the mini-license plates (produced by Dimensional Research), and the Cine-Vue tri-view button (showing LBJ's photo, "Johnson" with the words "for the USA" surrounded by a USA map, and the words "for President" [see photos] are the more common items from the 1964 Johnson-Humphrey campaign. Many of the same or similar items were produced for the 1964 Goldwater-Miller campaign. Several buttons were produced for the two campaigns with substantially the same graphics and design, producing "pairs," which collectors are used to seeing with other political jugates. In keeping with the kitschy fashions of the 1960's, flashers were also produced as political jewelry, such as tie-bars and bracelets, and the clever Goldwater eyeglasses and cactus pins.

The heyday of the Vari-Vue era came to an end, in January 1986, when Vari-Vue filed for bankruptcy, and the company's machinery, equipment and inventory was auctioned off in New York City. Many collectors of political items attended the auction and sale, and were able to purchase, for pennies on the dollar, Vari-Vue's one-of-a kind, prototype and archive items, as well as items from Vari-Vue's remaining inventories of unsold lenses, button backers, pins, postcards and campaign, advertising and other items.

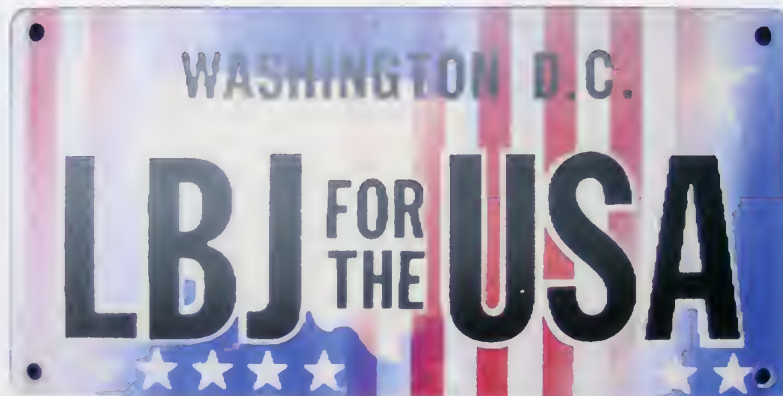
Although the Vari-Vue bankruptcy saw the end of that company, 1986 was not the end of the flasher or lenticular technology. Frank Didik and his company, DIDIK, Inc., purchased the Vari-Vue name, raw materials, technical files and technology, acquired much of the Vari-Vue production line, art pieces, samples and archives, and continued to expand the manufacture of lenticular machinery and technology started by Vari-Vue.

By the late 1980s, political flashers had fallen somewhat out of favor, in part because of the high cost of production. The 1988 Michael Dukakis campaign saw a revival of the flasher, but with several differences. There were two variations made of an

anti-Dukakis campaign button by the "Jayhawk Original" company, with a smaller version of one made in stick-on format. These anti-Dukakis items used a new and different technology than had been used for making the lenticular and Xograph® images that were so popular in the 1950s - 1970s.

"I once told Nixon that the Presidency is like being a jackass caught in a hail storm. You've got to just stand there and take it."

- President Lyndon B. Johnson



In 2000, an anti-Clinton flasher card was distributed at the Republican National Convention, in Philadelphia, using what appears to be updated lenticular technology; and a new type of flasher was sold at the 2000 RNC Fan-Fest, with alternating images of George W. Bush and an entirely new dual-image format. In 2004, the Bush-Cheney and Kerry-Edwards campaigns produced another new type of flasher button, with similar graphics and a flag background. Each featured alternating photos of the respective party candidates, etched onto the metal buttons. The 2006 election cycle saw a new type of flasher come into circulation: the home-made flasher. These were produced, in limited number, by photographers with the specialized equipment needed to produce the Vari-Vue-type of overlapping images, covered by a lens. These home-made flashers, produced to express displeasure with President Bush, Vice-President Cheney, and even British Prime Minister Tony Blair, first came to light at some APIC shows, but were then sold in greater quantities on eBay.

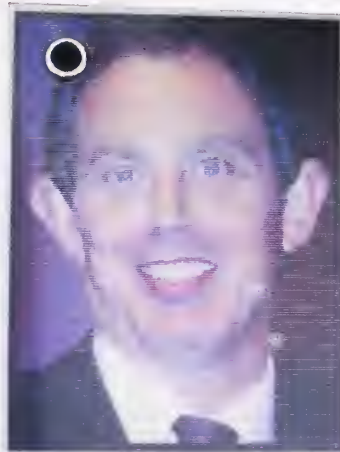
New and more sophisticated versions of the home-made flashers are already in circulation for the 2008 election. They are of simple design, consisting only of the lenticular plastic covering the overlapping images on a cardboard backing, with a glued-on pin. These flashers have been produced for Hillary Rodham Clinton, Barak Obama, Rudy Giuliani, John McCain, and Mitt Romney.



Uncut sheet as manufactured.



Johnson/Humphrey jugate flasher from 1964 (shown reduced).



BOMBER BLAIR

British anti-Tony Blair flasher.



President Bush and his computer mouse, Tony Blair.



Matching Goldwater/Miller flasher from 1964 (shown reduced).

Flashers have not only been used for presidential candidates. Interesting items have appeared for senatorial, congressional, state and local candidates as well. Some of these candidates are easy to identify, such as the gubernatorial campaign flashers for nationally known political figures like George Romney (ten different items in all) and for Nelson Rockefeller. In contrast, it was often quite a challenge to identify some of the candidates pictured on flashers, whose pins and buttons, in different shapes and sizes, simply said things like "I Like Ben" or "Go For Joe."

Fortunately for today's flasher collectors, the Internet has helped to solve that challenge. In addition to candidate-specific items, Vari-Vue and the other flasher manufacturers produced a broad selection of American political party and even party convention flashers. These items featured donkeys, elephants, clever slogans, spinning wheels, and other eye-catching designs, with graphics and/or narratives that urged people to vote, gave thumbs up or thumbs down for the other Party, or even supported both parties at the same time. While these items are not as highly valued as some of the candidates' own items, they are certainly creative and fun.

As with all political materials, the serious collector must worry about fake items, or brummagem. In the flasher world, however, these can be quite difficult to identify or classify. Flashers provide a different, almost unique, situation from other political pin-backs, because they are so difficult to reproduce.

Nearly 10 years ago, an article appeared in the *Political Collector* (supplemented by a letter to the editor the following month) which identified several 1960 – 1976 vintage flashers, in common circulation, as "brummagem," or not original items. The writers classified these as false after an exhaustive analysis, because their research uncovered several suspect flasher buttons, the metal backs of which didn't belong with the lenticular images on the fronts of the items. They identified several elements that proved the vintage of the items, including the listing of the Vari-Vue facility, how Vari-Vue referred to itself, the character of the union label used, and the colors and other qualities of the backs used.

There is a consensus today, among flasher collectors, that if the lens is a flasher (and certainly those produced by Vari-Vue and Pictorial Productions are) the item is not deemed brummagem. Most flasher collectors today would also agree that, if it is clear that the paper and the lenticular plastic lens were bonded during an election period, the attachment of a backing similar to (but not necessarily the same as) the original, is inconsequential. On the other hand, they would also tend to agree that, to the extent that the backing of a flasher is not similar to what originals would have used, the item has a lower value.



Ben Adamowski, a Republican from Cook County, Illinois.



Two Romneys running for president: George Romney in 1968 and Mitt Romney in 2008.



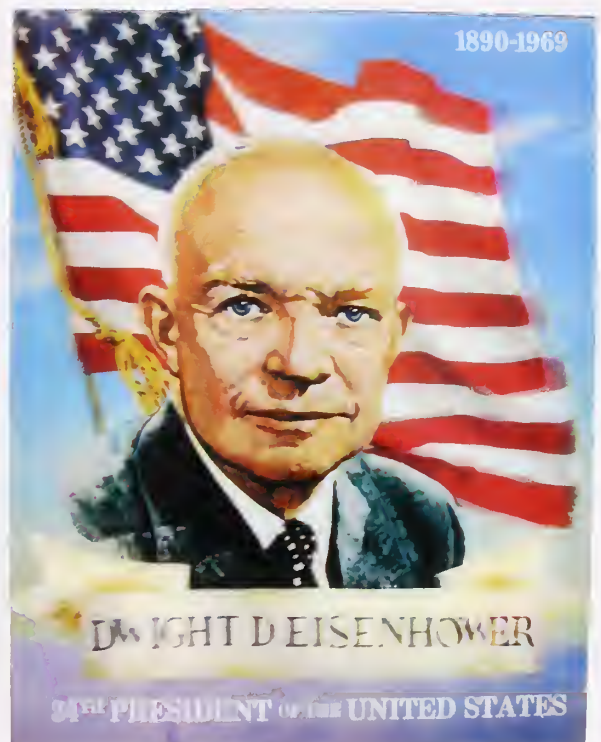
If you collected flashers (or any other kind of political memorabilia) before 1995, your sources for new and different items were APIC shows, antique stores, flea markets, auctions, and mailing lists. With the explosion in popularity of the Internet, and the emergence, in particular, of eBay, collecting flashers has been turned on its head. While supplementing one's collection by attending APIC shows is still a great way to maintain and develop the camaraderie that is the strength of our hobby, several members of the Flasher Chapter of APIC first discovered collectors from other parts of the country by bidding against each other in online auctions. There can be no doubt that, from a pure collecting standpoint, there's no beating the Internet. eBay has also led to previously unseen and exceedingly rare flashers appearing for sale. For the serious flasher collector, one negative aspect of the Internet marketplace is that bidding from around the world has led to staggering prices for flashers of relatively unknown candidates.

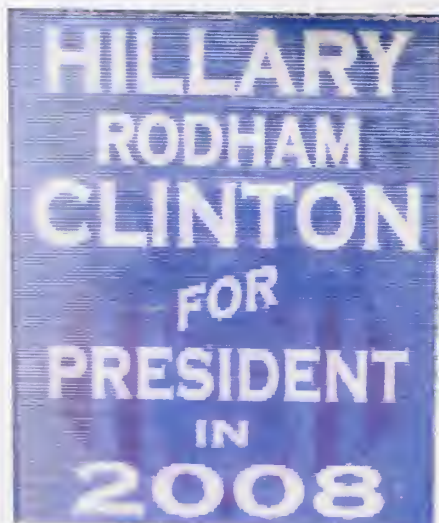
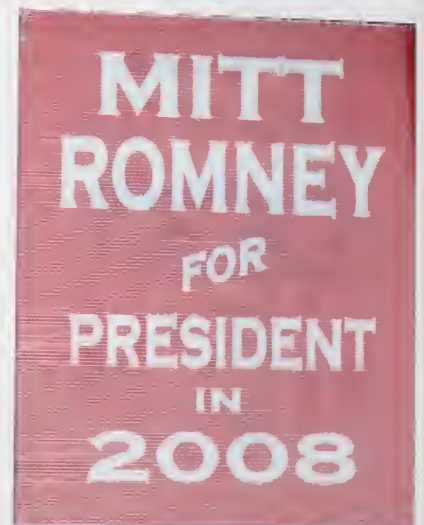
Because the price of the technology needed to produce flashers has dropped dramatically, there is hope that political flashers might see a "renaissance" in political memorabilia, which is music to the ears of dedicated flasher collectors.

If you are interested in collecting flashers and would like to be a part of the APIC Flasher Chapter, please contact Melyssa Fratkin, melyssaf@gmail.com or visit the APIC website, <http://apic.us>.



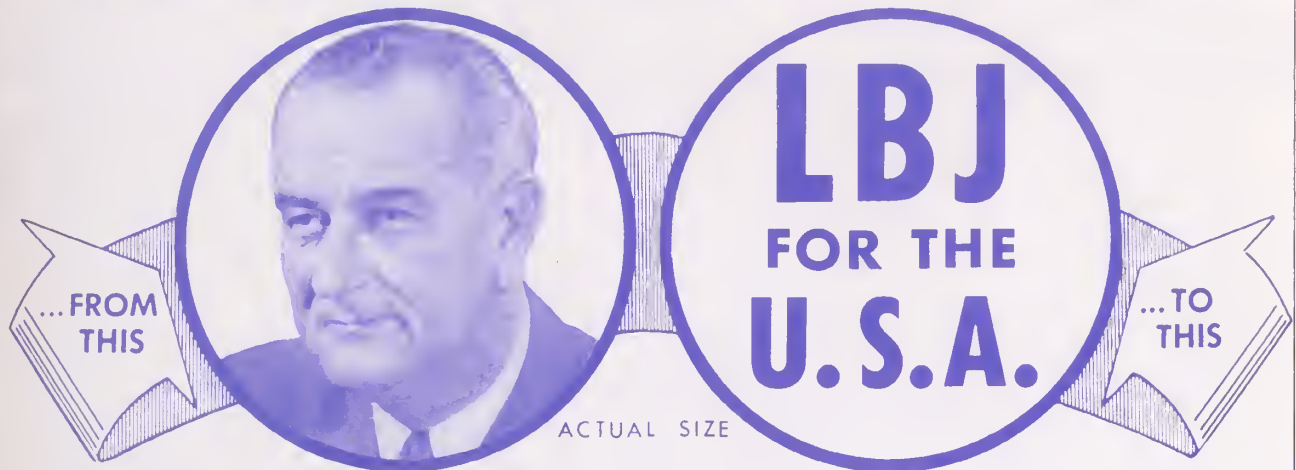
This flasher equated controversial Army General Douglas MacArthur with Uncle Sam.





Top: 1952 Stevenson framed Flasher featuring FDR.

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APIC HALL OF FAME PROFILE

Edmund B. Sullivan

By Al Salter

Dr. Edmund B. Sullivan is the link between the burgeoning years of American Political Items Collectors and today's organization. He joined APIC in 1960 and was a founding member and president of the Dewitt Chapter and the founding director and curator of the Museum of American Political Life at Hartford University in Hartford, Connecticut, a museum built around J. Doyle Dewitt's collection of political memorabilia. As a prolific author, Ed Sullivan has added more to the literature of political memorabilia and to the campaigns of the more colorful politicians and issues behind those pins, badges and posters than any APIC member. Seven books ranging from *Collecting Political Americana* to one in process, *From the People's Hands: Folk Art of Political America*, plus innumerable articles in journals have been written or co-authored by Sullivan on political artifacts and the movements or office seekers they support.

Ed Sullivan has had two careers. He received his doctorate in anthropology from Boston University in 1968 and that year joined the faculty at the University of Hartford where he remained until 1985. But Ed is not the stereotype of a professor. He's bright, of course, and creative. However, he's more comfortable sitting with you and quaffing a pint in a neighborhood pub than standing behind a lectern. He's a conversationalist whose knowledge of the history of political artifacts appears to be his favorite topic other than the morass of current politics.

A Navy man, Ed was involved with the atomic bomb tests on Bikini Atoll in the summer of 1946, and his self-published account, *Bikini, The Bomb, And Me*, illustrates the breadth of the man's experience. He has acted as consultant to TV stations, including WNBC-TV, on its Emmy award winning program, "Campaign Fever" as well as the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) for its series on "American Presidential History" and the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) for its "Election '84" feature. Others that have called on Ed include the

Sullivan and an assistant, overlooking the main gallery of the Museum of American Political Life.



Cover photo of *Waterbury Republican* (CT)
February 27, 1972.

Sullivan and an assistant, overlooking the main gallery of the Museum of American Political Life.



George & Eleanor McGovern with Ed in the Museum of American Political Life in the mid 1990's.

National Geographic Society, the U.S. Postal Service and a long string of historical societies, educational institutions, museums and publishers.

Ed has served on the executive board of the APIC and the editorial board *The Keynoter* and has contributed a number of articles to this publication, including the fundamental record of the first half century of the American Political Items Collectors, which appeared in the Summer 1995 issue.

Author, curator, and political consultant Ed Sullivan was inducted into the APIC Hall of Fame in 1982, and is the only member to have received the APIC Historian award as well. Although Ed lived for years in Suffield, Connecticut, he and Frances, his lovely new bride of two years, now reside on Cape Cod, where they are expanding their home. It is a spot they both love with its long horizons and "local mind-set" of political correctness, but it is also a place about to bend a bit now that Ed has arrived. He is a man whose mind travels on new roads.

A special exhibit in connection with the Northeast Social Studies Teacher's Conference in 1982.



The Coolidge-Dawes Lincoln Tour 1924

A book review by Michael Kelly



Collecting is a matter of passion. No one can really explain why one collector is drawn to 19th century Grand National Banners and another loves cause buttons from the Sixties. Each collection is a reflection of the personality of the collector.

Author Larry Krug, a longtime collector and past president of the APIC, has demonstrated just such a passion in his new book, *The Coolidge-Dawes Lincoln Tour 1924*.

Krug's book focuses on a single political event: a cross-country automobile caravan led by a brand new REO Speedwagon truck driven by E. A. Seidel. The caravan was probably the first of its kind and took advantage of the fact that in 1924 the automobile was just becoming widely-owned. Automobile excursions were a popular new entertainment and the 1924 presidential campaign of Calvin Coolidge and Charles Dawes decided to take advantage of this new popular activity.

Starting in Coolidge's hometown in Plymouth, Vermont, the caravan headed down to New York City, followed the Lincoln Highway across the country to San Francisco, and then drove along California's scenic Pacific Coast north through Oregon and Washington, nearly reaching the Canadian border. Being Republicans, it was natural for participants to call it the "Lincoln Tour" after the highway.

Despite the fact that the road varied in quality from excellent to little more than muddy paths in places, the caravan covered 6,500 miles, attracted 100,000 participating vehicles and was seen by more than five million people. Of particular note is the fact that two million campaign buttons were distributed during the trip from Vermont to California.

As the caravan reached a new state line, dignitaries and politicians from that state would join the procession while cars and trucks from each community drove out to welcome it and join in for as long as each local driver had time. All along the route, the caravan would stop in town after town. Local Republicans would stage rallies to welcome the procession, and famous speakers – some local and some brought in with the caravan – would give speeches to the crowd and rally party faithful. Naturally, large cities and small towns loved the excitement and newspapers lavished coverage on each event.

It was really a modern variation of the Whig campaign of 1840 when Harrison supporters rolled large leather balls from town to town and urged supporters of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" to "keep the ball rolling!"

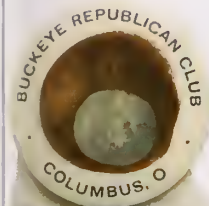


Former APIC President Larry Krug has published a new book on an unusual aspect of the 1924 campaign for President Calvin Coolidge.

Author Krug has been a member of the Calvin Coolidge Memorial Foundation in Plymouth, Vermont for over 30 years and is recognized as one of the premiere Coolidge collectors. In *The Coolidge-Dawes Lincoln Tour 1924*, Krug uses Coolidge items from different states along with photos and items from the caravan to illustrate a detailed description of the tour on a day-by-day basis. Readers can follow the caravan's progress from local newspaper accounts and lead driver E. A. Seidel's log. In illustrating the story, Krug has aligned items with the location where they were produced.

For example, October 1 (Day 23) relates the progress from Marshalltown, Iowa to Denison, Iowa with photos from the local newspaper and a wonderful full color poster. The description of the event from the *Omaha Bee* gives us the feel of the event. The same sort of description is provided for every day, all the way from its start on September 9 to the end of the tour on November 3, the day before the election that gave a landslide victory to Coolidge and Dawes.

The book is a lot of fun and loaded with wonderful pictures of campaign items and surely every known item for the Coolidge-Dawes Lincoln Tour. *The Coolidge-Dawes Lincoln Tour 1924* is published by Schiffer Publishing and can be ordered at the website: <http://CoolidgeDawesLincolnTour.com> or by writing: Americana Resources, 18222 Flower Hill Way #299, Gaithersburg, MD 20879.



Spare tire cover.



COOLIDGE



The Fulton Wide Awakes Banner: A “Revered Relic”

By Mark Gelke

Over the past 30 years, my family and I have been fortunate enough to assemble a collection of 19th century presidential campaign ephemera of which we are immensely proud. Like all collectors, we have particular items that we consider absolute treasures. One of the most fascinating pieces in the “Gelke Collection,” is a superb hand-painted “Wide Awakes” banner from the campaign of 1860. We acquired the piece from a prominent Midwestern dealer about 10 years ago. He sold it on behalf of the family of the granddaughter of the original owner, Ms. Eunice E. Bent of Evanston, Illinois. The provenance which accompanies the banner is astounding, and presents a fascinating insight into an important chapter in our nation’s political past.

The story of this superb piece of political Americana begins with Mr. John Dyer, originally of New York. He arrived in Fulton, Illinois, a small town on the Mississippi River, in 1857. When the campaign of 1860 was at its height, Dyer, a staunch Republican, organized the “Fulton Wide Awakes,” and became captain of the organization. A number of Fulton’s citizens supported Lincoln and the Republican platform and were eager to do what they could to support the local Wide Awakes club. It seems that the women of the town were particularly devoted in their support, for they arranged a great oyster supper to raise funds for a banner to be presented to Captain Dyer.

After raising the necessary money, the work was given to Seely & Bent, “house, sign, and carriage painters” in the town. Upon completion, Dyer accepted the banner on behalf of the Wide Awakes Club, and carried it as he marched at the head of the Republicans of Fulton in the numerous parades held in the town during the 1860 campaign.

Following the victory of Lincoln, Mr. Dyer retained possession of the banner and carefully preserved it as a “revered relic” and family heirloom. Its story, however, does not end here. In 1909, Mrs. Bent and her husband loaned it to the Chicago Historical Society for display in the Lincoln Centennial Exhibit. We have in our possession a letter sent to the Bents from the society in which the directors proclaim that much of the success of the exhibit was “due to your courteous aid.” The exhibit was not, however, the last public display of the magnificent banner.





Republican Grand National Banner for 1860.

In the presidential campaign of 1912, Mr. Dyer, then 89, became a devoted supporter of Theodore Roosevelt and the Progressive Party. By this time Dyer was a resident of California (the town, unfortunately, is not known), and determined that he would do all he possibly could to assure the election of Roosevelt.

He made the decision to participate in a local Bull Moose parade, and carry the Fulton Wide Awake banner in it! A newspaper article the day of the parade reported that Mr. Dyer sought to inspire Californians through display of the banner with the "same faith" in Roosevelt and Johnson that he and his fellow Republicans had had in Lincoln and Hamlin.

Before riding in the parade, "holding aloft" the historic banner, Mr. Dyer remarked to a local reporter:

"The inscription on the banner is just as true of 1912 as it was in 1860. The doctrines propounded by Lincoln are the platform planks of the Progressive Party. Colonel Roosevelt is fighting the interests just that same as Lincoln did, except 'Father Abe' attacked the slave interests while Roosevelt is attacking the moneyed power."

The journalist speculated that "This is probably the last public exhibition of the banner as Mr. Dyer has presented it to his daughter, Mrs. Eva Bent, who will take it to her Chicago home..."

Without question, the banner and its story are an important part of our political heritage. It is a great honor to have the banner as part of our collection, and a definite responsibility. We fully intend to do our best to preserve this great piece of history for future generations, and like to think that Mr. Dyer would be proud to know that his banner is in the possession of individuals who treasure it.



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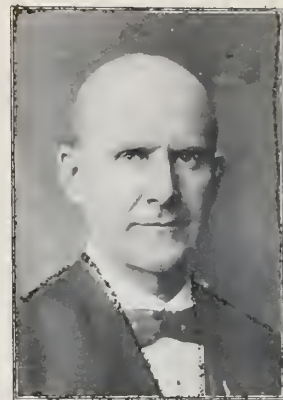
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Socialist Postcards

A recent auction from Heritage Galleries (HA.com/Americana) featured a fine selection of postcards from Socialist Presidential Candidate Eugene V. Debs. Debs ran for President in 1904, 1908, 1912, and 1920 (the last time from prison where he was serving a sentence for opposing America's participation in WW I). His 1912 showing, 6% of the vote, remains the all-time high for a Socialist Party candidate.



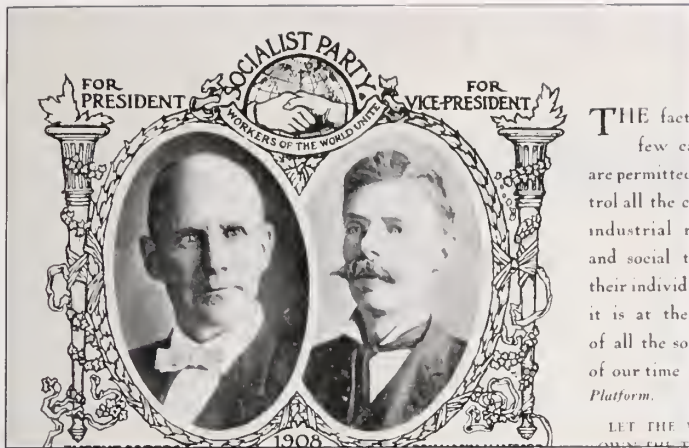
The end of class struggles and class rule, of master and slave, of ignorance and vice, of poverty and shame, of cruelty and crime, the birth of freedom, the dawn of brotherhood, the beginning of MAN, that is the demand. This is Socialism.

Eugene V. Debs



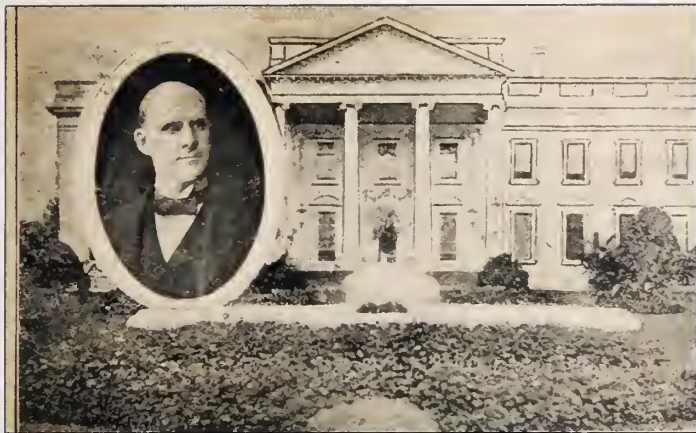
EUGENE V. DEBS



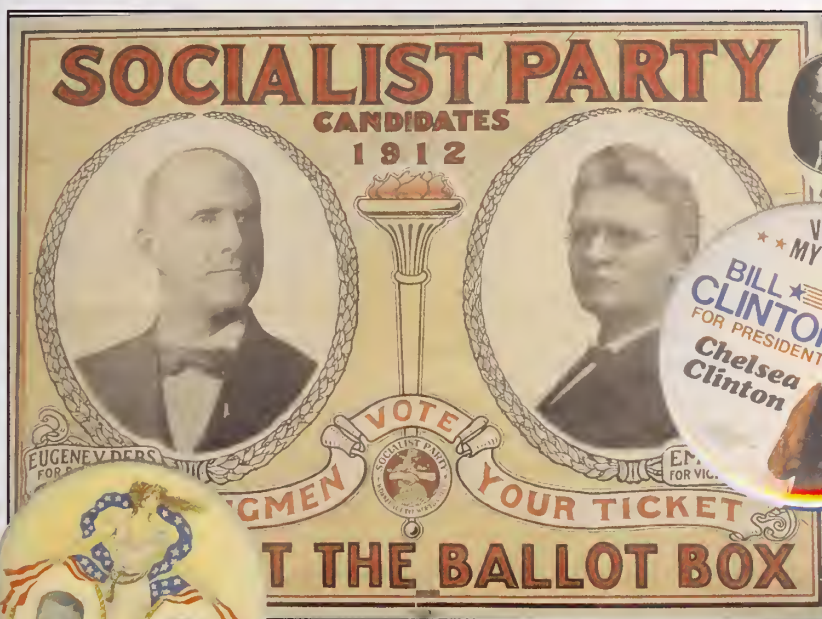


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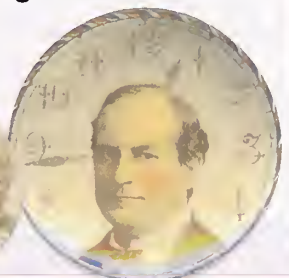
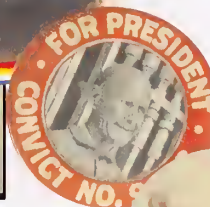


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Flag Day: October 31, 1896

By Steve Baxley



The United States officially adopted the Stars and Stripes as its national flag on June 14, 1777. In 1885, B. J. Cigrand, a schoolteacher in Fredonia, Wisconsin, decided to lead his pupils in a June 14 celebration of "Flag Birthday" or "Flag Day." In the 1890s, the New York State Board of Education, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia, the New York and Pennsylvania Societies of the Sons of the Revolution, and the Pennsylvania Society of the Colonial Dames of America adopted resolutions to observe Flag Day on June 14.

In 1894, the American Flag Day Association was created to promote the celebration of Flag Day. In Chicago, the association sponsored the first celebration of Flag Day by public school children, with 300,000 children meeting in five city parks. Though not a national holiday, the June 14 Flag Day was celebrated in many American cities.

William McKinley's campaign manager, Mark Hanna, also liked the idea of Flag Day. Hanna had made good use of Old Glory in building his image of McKinley, associating McKinley with national pride and honor as a champion of protectionism, a Civil War veteran, and a strong leader on the Sound Money issue. However, the June 14 date of the traditional observance of Flag Day didn't quite fit Hanna's plans.

Hanna needed to spark up enthusiastic support right before Election Day to turn out voters supporting Sound Money. On October 17, 1896, Hanna made the following declaration:

"The American Flag has been in the present campaign the emblem of national honor. Its influence has been for great good in the cause of a good people. Its display in many places has been potent in the advancement of the country's battle for its honor at home and abroad."

"I therefore suggest that Saturday, October 31, all who intend to vote November 3rd for the preservation of our national honor, for sound money and the advancement of our people's interest and general prosperity, display the national colors at their homes, their places of business, and wherever they may be seen, in order that voters whose hearts are for their country may be strengthened in their purpose and those who are undetermined may more patriotically intelligently conclude how best to perform their duty as citizens."

The Republicans used the flag as a symbol of national honor. Bryan began his campaign by focusing on the American Revolution while the Republicans emphasized the Civil War. Many men had died defending the flag and to dishonor it stirred up deep emotions. The Republicans had been very successful in waving the bloody shirt in the past, but many people were becoming tired of this tactic and were looking for a united country, which was the point of the Republican argument. For the Republicans, the Free Silver movement was starting a new Civil War in two ways: 1) it was dividing labor and capital, which was



A Puck cartoon shows the forces of anarchy (Illinois Gov. John Altgeld), racism (South Carolina Senator "Pitchfork Ben" Tillman) and corruption (the Tammany Hall tiger) rallying behind William Jennings Bryan.



creating anarchy, and 2) like the rebels who had seceded from the Union, their sectionalism and states rights talk was dividing the West and the South from the rest of the country.

How did the Democratic Party's stand on Free Silver attack the flag and national honor? For the Sound Money men, one answer was a word not heard much any more, Repudiation. Repudiation is the denial of a promise that one has made. When debtors pay back their obligations with devalued money, they are cheating their creditors, even though the dollar amount of their payment is the same amount that they borrowed. Supporters of the Gold Standard often used the slogan, No Repudiation.

On August 8, 1896, in his acceptance of the Republican nomination, William McKinley made the following statements about national honor:

"The American people hold the financial honor of our country as sacred as our flag, and can be relied upon to guard it with the same sleepless vigilance. They hold its preservation above party loyalty and have often demonstrated that party ties avail nothing when the spotless credit of our country is threatened. The money of the United States and every kind of form of it, whether of paper, silver, or gold, must be as good as the best in the world. It must not only be current at its full face value at home, but must be counted at par in every and any commercial center of the globe."

As McKinley said, party ties were breaking down over the money question. In a *Puck* cartoon (a Democratic publication that hated Bryan), a wide-eyed Bryan rides on the shoulders of the Tammany Hall Tiger and is accompanied by John Peter Altgeld and Pitchfork Ben Tillman. Altgeld was often labeled an anarchist. Tillman's racist statements and actions justified the southern white supremacist label. The caption at the bottom of the cartoon reads WE DESPISE BRYAN FOR THE FRIENDS HE HAS MADE. Tillman had lost his left eye during surgery and wears a kerchief saying S. C. Primaries. After the 1894 elections, the South Carolina Democratic State Convention passed a party rule requiring nominations for state offices from 1896 on to be made by direct primaries. Tillman approved of this strategy because it would appease his opponents within the party and eventually disenfranchise black voters. This happened in 1895 when Tillman directed the writing of the South Carolina Constitution that disenfranchised eligible black voters. It was now "safe" to select the state ticket through a primary election. In 1896, South Carolina became the first state to select its nominees for statewide offices through a direct primary.

Law and order did break down in 1894 when a federal injunction was issued against the leaders of the American Railway Union. After an injunction was issued by Attorney General Richard Olney, President Grover Cleveland sent United States Marshals and some 2,000 United States Army troops commanded by Gen. Nelson Miles to end the strike, reasoning that the strike interfered with the delivery of U.S. Mail. During the strike, 13 strikers were killed and 57 were wounded. An estimated 6,000 rail workers did \$340,000 worth of property damage, and Eugene Debs, the union leader, was tried and found guilty of interfering with the mail. He served 6 months in prison.

Enemies of Altgeld, the Democratic Governor of Illinois, had associated him with anarchism because he had pardoned three men accused of the bombing in



Haymarket Square in Chicago. Altgeld reasoned that the men could not be kept in jail without a fair and speedy trial and enough evidence to go to trial. Altgeld had been willing to use the militia to put down strikes in the past, but refused to use violence against the laborers in the Pullman Strike. In two telegrams, Altgeld demanded that the troops sent by federal injunction be removed as their presence violated the U.S. Constitution. These two events made it easy to label Altgeld an anarchist.

As proof of the Democrats' anarchist leanings, the Republicans cited what they called the "anarchy plank" of the 1896 Democratic Platform. The plank read as follows:

"We denounce the arbitrary interference by Federal authorities in local affairs as a violation of the Constitution of the United States and a crime against free institutions, and we especially object to government by injunction as a new and highly dangerous form of oppression by which Federal judges, in contempt of the laws of the States and rights of citizens, become at once legislators, judges, and executioners, and we approve the bill passed by the last session of the United States Senate and now pending in the House of Representatives, relative to contempts in Federal Courts and providing trials by jury in certain cases of contempt."



Puck again supplies an excellent illustration of the Civil War argument about national honor (see above). The right side of this cartoon shows Abraham Lincoln and Jeff Davis confronting each other. Fort Sumter is in the background and Lincoln is accompanied by Union soldiers and the American flag. Lincoln holds the Constitution and Jeff Davis holds a paper containing the same beginning phrase used in the "anarchy plank, which denounces federal authorities' interference in local affairs. In the cartoon, Bryan stands on the "Popo Platform Built by the Silver Syndicate" and holds the same anarchy plank. While some silver bugs warned of the conspiracy of the "Rothschild Money Power," some gold bugs believed that the "Silver Barons of the West" were the instigators of the Free Silver movement and had taken control of the Democratic Party.

The cartoon associates Bryan with Jeff Davis, and as the caption says: HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF. On the left side of the cartoon, Tillman, Altgeld, Debs, and J. P. Jones trample national honor and the flag to raise the red flag of Dis-order and Mis-rule.

Bryan supporters did use one argument from the Civil War—slavery. They argued that the banks, railroads, and the Government's economic policies were turning working people into slaves.

A ribbon "I Am For Bryan and American Manhood" illustrates this theme. For Bryan supporters, to be a man is to be independent, to be able to provide for one's family. They felt they were being stripped of their freedom and their manhood, reduced to the status of slaves.

For McKinley supporters, the Bryan campaign had not only dishonored the flag with its repudiation doctrine, it was returning to the sectionalism of the Civil War, not the American Revolution, as it claimed. According to Hanna, if one was for national honor, the country, and the flag, one was for McKinley. This brilliant campaign strategy backed the Bryan campaign into a corner. If they refused to honor Flag Day, they could be accused of being unpatriotic, though Hanna had clearly associated the observance of the day with support for McKinley and the preservation of national honor.

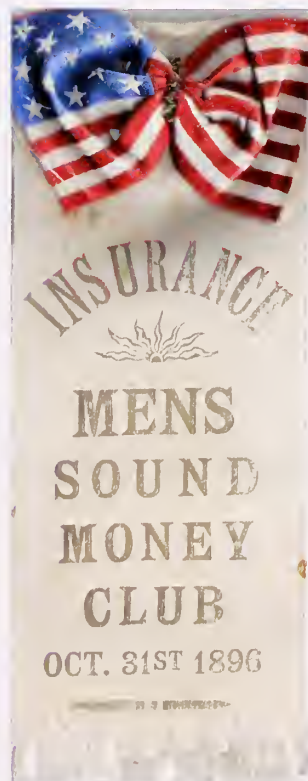
The Bryan campaign decided that it had no choice but to support observance of the day, but would not recognize its observance in support of McKinley as the only patriotic candidate. The Republicans had lots of money to buy flags and other political items for Flag Day. One poster showed McKinley and Hobart on a 45-star American flag with the slogan "Sound Money – Protection and Prosperity." The left-hand corner of the poster includes the October 17 Mark Hanna Flag Day declaration cited above.

Flag Day demonstrations were immense celebrations. In New York City, more than 100,000 men marched in the parade, with 750,000 spectators. Of course, there were flags everywhere. The New York demonstration was organized by the Businessmen's Sound Money Association. According to the *New York Times*, the parade in Hartford, Connecticut, did not allow partisan mottos, with each participant wearing an American flag. But Flag Day was generally "wrapped in McKinley," and Democrats, of course, sometimes reacted with anger and frustration. Some instances were reported of Bryan supporters throwing rocks or tearing down McKinley flag displays, which helped Hanna's argument that Bryan supporters were disrespectful of the flag.

The Democrats did produce a campaign item specifically for the Flag Day celebration, a paper ribbon with the slogan "Bryan and Free Silver 16 to 1", with a picture of a red, white, and blue American flag waving in the breeze. Below is the inscription: "Mark, Hanna, what we say: The Flag of our Country waves for all our people. Iowa Bryan Train Oct. 31, 1896."

Hanna's Flag Day (October 31, 1896) was more than a devastating trick on the Democrats, it was a culmination of months of accusations that the Free Silver movement was the greatest rebellion against the flag and national honor since the Civil War. This spectacular event fell on the Saturday before Election Day, reminding voters of their duty to vote for Sound Money and the McKinley ticket. The result was a wonderful treat for the Republicans as they won the Presidency. They believed that they had honored the flag and preserved national honor as they had in during the Civil War.

In 1916, Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day. In August 1949, an Act of Congress established National Flag Day as June 14, which is not a federal holiday.



Leonel Campbell and Polly Pry

By Larry Brokofsky

Leonel Campbell was a journalist for the *Denver Post*. She achieved fame and fortune with her very descriptive and dramatic writing style and scandalous stories. Her most sensational story dealt with an individual who had been trapped in the mountains along with five companions. The group was snowed in for the winter and eventually ran out of food. In order to stay alive, the individual killed and ate his companions, earning the nickname of the "Colorado Cannibal." Local history claims that he ate "the only Republicans in Hinsdale County."

Campbell eventually used this story to help change the laws concerning punishment for certain crimes and helped the "Colorado Cannibal" get a parole after serving twenty years.

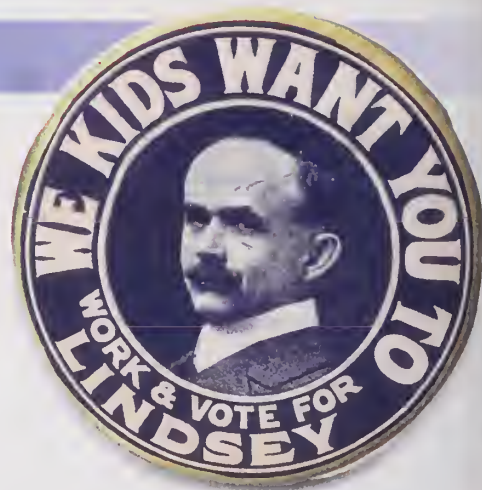
She investigated mine workers, their unions and the owners. When union workers started boycotting the *Post*, she left the paper and started her own publication called the *Polly Pry*.

Using the pseudonym Polly Pry, her stories concerning the mine owners' use of cheap immigrant labor and how the American unions physically attacked the immigrants, led to threats on her life. In fact, in 1904, a man attempted to shoot her in her own home. While not popular with the owners and miners, she was very popular with the public at large and the local paperboys took turns watching her home. The governor even offered to post a military guard around her house.

In her later years she helped organize a benefit for French war orphans, did public relations work in Greece and Albania during WWI, and covered a revolution in Mexico. She believed in the rights of the ordinary person and free speech, especially the ability of journalists to expose the truth without fear.

In 1906, she backed Benjamin B. Lindsey for Governor. Lindsey was Judge of the Juvenile and Family Court of Denver. He worked actively to get child labor laws passed and held adults responsible when those laws were violated. In 1910, he wrote the book *The Beast*, and later, he and two others wrote the book *Children in Bondage - The Problem of Child Labor*. Both books dealt with the exploitation of children.

As Polly Pry always championed the cause of the "little guy", especially children; she threw her support to Lindsey, who was running as an Independent. While her petticoats were not enough to get him elected, the campaign did leave the hobby a trio of very nice pins.



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